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Methods Trail #1

I had the opportunity to work with my mother’s 6th grade extended day study group. Each week the group of approximately eight students decides on a topic or theme that they feel needs to be revisited or explored. As sixth graders, geography is a central theme to their curriculum, so we decided to do an interactive Smart Board activity to review the Five Themes of Geography. From my experience as a classroom teacher, Smart Boards are excellent for use with students of all ages who are ready for something more than just a lecture. Smart Boards and similar products accommodate different types of student learners; visual learners respond well to the visual projection elements, while tactile learners benefit from going up front and interacting with the board.

I presented this small study group of sixth graders a Smart Notebook Lesson entitled “Presentation of the Five Themes of Geography and crossword puzzle”, this Smart Board activity allowed their teacher a quick way to evaluate the themes that were easily remembered and those that needed to be reviewed, furthermore the crossword puzzle at the end of the mini lesson was a great interactive activity for the group to figure out together.

Although Smart Boards are available in most classrooms in TPS at this point, not all educators use the technology in its correct form. It is important for educators to remember that Smart Boards are much more than a “whiteboard”, this equipment provides students with endless possibilities to explore numerous topics when presented in the correct manner.

Link to the lesson: http://exchange.smarttech.com/details.html?id=6057474c-b0d4-4147-a302-f6b60d83d10c